

AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**  
and the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1958





RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AMERSHAM

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1958

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AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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CHAIRMAN: Major G. Boyce, M.B.E., M.C., J.P.  
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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CHAIRMAN :

F.H. Hancock

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

E.A. Alliot

Councillor

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Mrs. E. Bell.  
Mrs. W. Corkish.  
Mrs. L.M. Gibb.  
W.A. Cummins.  
O.E. Hansen.  
H.R. Hoare.  
F.W.E. King, M.B.E.  
J. Milliner.  
S.E. Tunks.  
W.D. Young.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

T.P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Retired 31st December 1958).  
F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Appointed 1st January, 1959).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H.  
for Chesham U.D.C., Beaconsfield U.D.C.,  
Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer and  
Assistant County Medical Officer.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. F.G. Caudery, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. W. E. Jones  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Mr. R. Powell, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
Mr. H.H. Compton, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
Mr. J.A. Clifford, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Clerical Staff:

Mr. T. Ball (Chief Clerk).  
Miss W.F. Allen.

Rodent Officer:

Mr. H.A. Snaps.





Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
Amersham, Bucks.

June, 1959.

Tel. Amersham 565.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Amersham Rural District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1958.

Dr. T.P. Evans retired on 31st December, 1958. I would like to thank him for his great kindness in introducing me to the district.

In preparing this report the Chief Public Health Inspector has been of very great assistance.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of his help and also that of the inspectorial and clerical staff of the Public Health Department.

Comments are given in each section to highlight those matters considered to be of importance.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.



## ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

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### Section II     GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

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Ambulance Facilities  
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Hospitals  
Blood Transfusion Service

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Mass Radiography Survey 1956

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### Section VII    FACTORIES ACT AND MISCELLANEOUS

APPENDICES I and II



SECTION I.GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population.....	49,820
Area (Acres) of District.....	46,233
Number of Habitable Houses (per rate book)....	15,198
Rateable value of Area.....	£718,721
Sum represented by 1d Rate.....	£2,805.16.3.

Amersham Rural District comprises an area of about 72 square miles. It lies in the South-Eastern portion of the County of Buckinghamshire, is situate about 25 miles from London and ranges over two spurs of the Chiltern Hills.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	438	402	840
Illegitimate	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>30</u>
All	<u>455</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>870</u>

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	17.5
x Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 0.98)	17.1

Still Births

Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births 12.4

Total live and still-births 881

Infant Deaths

Infant deaths 17

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19.5
" " " " " leg. live births	20.2
" " " " " illeg. live births	Nil
Neo-Natal " " " " " live births	16.1

Illegitimate live births per cent of total  
live births 3.5

Maternal deaths (including abortion) Nil

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and  
still-births Nil

Causes of Death

	Males	Females	Total
1. Heart Diseases.....	23	37	60
2. Other Diseases of Circ. System....	10	10	20
3. Bronchitis.....	12	3	15
4. Pneumonia.....	15	26	41
5. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	2	-	2
6. Cancer of Lung, Bronchus.....	14	5	19
7. Cancer.....	37	53	90
8. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.....	2	2	4
9. Diabetes.....	1	3	4
10. Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	1	1	2
11. Congenital Malformations.....	1	4	5
12. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	48	64
13. Coronary disease, angina.....	41	39	80
14. Influenza.....	1	2	3
15. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
16. Other Infective and Parasitic Dis.	1	1	2
17. Tuberculosis.....	1	-	1
18. Ulcer of stomach or Duodenum.....	1	-	1
19. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	7	-	7
20. Syphilitic Disease.....	-	1	1
21. Suicide.....	2	1	3
22. Other definand ill-defined dis..	16	22	38
23. Motor vehicle accidents.....	9	4	13
24. All other accidents.....	2	6	8
	216	269	485

Death rate per 1,000 population 9.7  
 x Corrected death rate per 1,000 population 9.99  
 (Comparability factor 1.03)

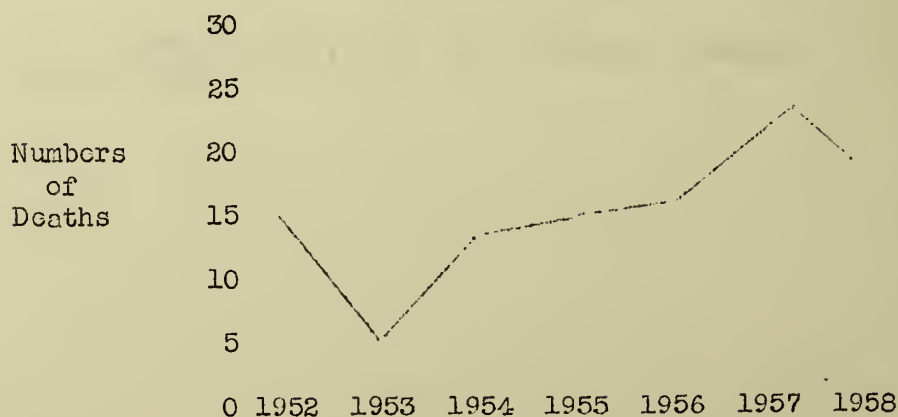
- x The corrected Birth and Death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales, and corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

19 persons died from this disease during the year. In his report for 1957 the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health reported that in England and Wales there had been 815 more deaths from this disease than in 1956 - a rise of 5.2%.

All the evidence points to the fact that cigarette smoking is one of the causative factors. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs & Excise for the financial year 1957-58 report that the amount of tobacco retained in this country for consumption rose by 3,000,000 lb to reach a record figure of 241.9 million lbs.

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung in this district for the years 1952-1958 are shown below:-





COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1958

District	Pop-ulation Census 1951	Reg. Gen. estimated Population Mid-1958	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-births
<u>URBAN:</u>								
Aylesbury	21,050	22,960	17.3 (397)	10.4 (239)	0.04 (1)	12.6 (5)	12.6 (5)	N11
Beaconsfield	7,913	9,100	14.5 (132)	9.0 (82)	0.11 (1)	15.2 (2)	7.6 (1)	N11
Bletchley	10,919	14,610	19.7 (288)	7.9 (116)	0.34 (5)	10.4 (3)	3.5 (1)	N11
Buckingham	3,942	4,130	16.7 (69)	10.7 (44)	- (-)	14.5 (1)	14.5 (1)	N11
Chesham	11,433	13,060	18.7 (244)	11.9 (156)	0.08 (1)	12.3 (3)	8.2 (2)	N11
Eton	3,247	4,980	11.4 (57)	10.0 (50)	- (-)	70.2 (4)	52.6 (3)	N11
High Wycombe	40,702	45,270	16.7 (758)	10.0 (453)	0.20 (9)	18.5 (14)	13.2 (10)	N11
Insulade	3,270	3,740	20.1 (75)	11.8 (44)	0.27 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	N11
Marlow	6,481	7,430	19.9 (148)	10.1 (75)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	N11
Newport Pagnell	4,377	4,400	14.3 (63)	28.2 (124)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	N11
Slough	66,471	73,620	17.3 (1275)	7.7 (570)	0.08 (6)	14.9 (19)	10.2 (13)	N11
Wolverton	13,426	13,300	12.6 (168)	13.8 (184)	0.15 (2)	17.9 (3)	17.9 (3)	N11
Total Urban	193,231	216,600	17.0 (3674)	9.9(2137)	0.12 (26)	14.7 (54)	10.6 (39)	N11
<u>RURAL:</u>								
Amersham	41,437	49,820	17.5 (870)	9.7 (485)	0.02 (1)	19.5 (17)	16.1 (14)	N11
Aylesbury	29,545	30,210	18.3 (552)	10.9 (329)	0.03 (1)	9.1 (5)	9.1 (5)	N11
Buckingham	9,422	9,620	16.6 (160)	10.2 (98)	- (-)	25.0 (4)	18.7 (3)	N11
Eton	43,143	57,300	17.6 (1009)	8.5 (485)	0.05 (3)	15.9 (16)	14.9 (15)	N11
Newport Pagnell	13,823	14,630	15.0 (220)	12.3 (180)	- (-)	18.2 (4)	13.6 (3)	N11
Wing	9,047	8,840	17.1 (151)	9.0 (80)	- (-)	46.4 (7)	39.7 (6)	N11
Winslow	7,268	7,820	15.7 (123)	13.6 (106)	- (-)	24.4 (3)	24.4 (3)	N11
Wycombe	39,375	45,760	18.6 (849)	9.2 (423)	0.09 (4)	17.7 (15)	10.6 (9)	N11
Total Rural	193,060	224,000	17.6 (3934)	9.8(2186)	0.04 (9)	18.0 (71)	14.7 (58)	N11
TOTAL COUNTY	386,291	440,600	17.3 (7608)	9.8(4323)	0.08 (35)	16.4(125)	12.7 (97)	N11
ENGLAND AND WALES			16.4	11.7	0.10	22.5	16.2	0.43

Note: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION II.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.Hospital Services:

The Amersham Rural District is situate within the area of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Board has delegated management responsibilities of hospitals in this area to High Wycombe and District Management Committee.

Hospitals Available for the District:

Tuberculosis	-	Berks & Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General	-	Chesham Cottage Hospital.
"	-	Amersham General Hospital.
"	-	Royal Bucks County Hospital, Aylesbury.
"	-	War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe.
"	-	Chalfont & Gerrards Cross Hospital.
Infectious Diseases	-	Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities:

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water and sewage effluent for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

Ambulance Services:

These services are administered by the County Council. The Amersham R.D.C. area is covered by the High Wycombe station.



MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICENATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

Districts Served	Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.	Telephone
Amersham )		
Amersham Common )	Miss P. Harper, S.E.A.N., S.C.M.,	
Chesham Bois )	and Miss M. Inglis, S.R.N., S.C.M.,	
Coleshill )	7, First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham
Winchmore Hill )		374
Little Chalfont )		
Chalfont St. Giles )	Miss M.C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M.,	Chal. St. G.
Seer Green )	Q.N., Holme Lacey, London Road,	413
Jordans )	Chalfont St. Giles.	
Three Households )		
Chalfont St. Peter )	Miss M.I. Cummings, S.R.N.,	
Gold Hill )	S.C.M., Q.N., Nos. 1 and 3,	
"Kingsway" G.X )	Pennington Road, The Globe, Chalfont	
Chorley Wood )	St. Peter.	Gerr. X
(Bucks Area) )		4030/1
Lee Common )		
The Lee )	Mrs. B.L. Fowler, S.R.N., S.C.M.,	
Chartridge )	Q.N., 17a, Berkeley Avenue,	Chesham
Ballinger )	Chesham.	8591
Swan Bottom )		
Ashley Green )		
Whelpley Hill )	x Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M.,	Chesham
Ley Hill )	Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill, Chesham.	8238
Lye Green )		
Latimer & Chenies )		
Holmer Green )		
Penn Street )	Miss I.M. Cobb, S.R.N., S.C.M.,	
Penn )	Q.N., 8, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere,	Penn
Forty Green )	High Wycombe.	3327
Knotty Green )		
Tylers Green )		
Little Hampden )		
Little Kingshill )	x Miss J.D. MacDonald, S.R.N.,	Gt. Miss.
Hyde Heath )	S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Cottage,	2071
Little Missenden )	Rignall Road, Great Missenden.	
Great Missenden )		
Hawridge )		
Bellingdon )		
Asheridge )	x Miss J.E. Fordham, S.R.N.,	
Buckland Common )	S.C.M., Nurse's Bungalow, Sandpit Choles.	
St. Leonards )	Hill, Buckland Common, Nr. Tring,	269
Cholesbury )	Herts.	
The Vale, Chesham )		
Prestwood )		
Gt. Kingshill )	x Miss H.M.E. Coulson, S.R.N.,	
Spurlands End )	S.C.M., Q.N., Chestnut Cottage,	Gt. Miss
Heath End )	Sixty Acres, Prestwood, Great Miss.	2209

x These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Location	Sessions	Medical Officer attends
Amersham Old Town New Town	British Legion Hall, Whielden Street. Community Centre, Woodside Road. Amersham-on-the Hill.	2nd & 4th Tuesday 1st & 3rd Tuesday	2nd Tuesday Each Session
Chalfont St. Gilcs. Chalfont St. Peter.	Memorial Hall. Tithe Barn, Swan Farm.	2nd & 4th Thursday Each Fri.	2nd Thursday 1st & 3rd Friday
Chartridge and The Lee	Village Hall, Chartridge. Youth Club Hall, Lee Common.	3rd Thurs. 1st Thurs.	No Medical Officer Each Session
Chenics	Florence Brown Memorial Hall Hillside Road, Chorley Wood.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	4th Tuesday
Chesham	School Clinic, Germain Street	1st & 3rd Friday 9.30 a.m. 2nd & 4th Fri. 2 p.m.	Each Session Each Session
Chesham Pond Park	Community Hall, Windsor Road.	2nd & 4th Monday	2nd Mon.
Cholesbury- cum-St. Leonards.	Village Hall, Cholesbury	2nd & 4th Thursday	4th Thurs.
Great Kingshill	Village Hall.	3rd Weds.	Each Session
Great Missenden	Memorial Hall, Station Approach.	2nd & 4th Weds.	4th Weds.
Hazlemere	Penn Road Methodist Schoolroom.	1st & 3rd Tuesday	1st Tuesday
Holmer Green	Methodist Church	1st & 3rd Weds.	1st Weds.
Little Chalfont	Little Chalfont Hall.	1st & 3rd Monday	Each Session
Prestwood	Village Hall.	2nd Weds.	Each Session
Seer Green and Jordans	Baptist Schoolroom, Seer Green.	1st & 3rd Thursday	3rd Thurs.
Tylers Green and Penn	Parish Room, Tylers Green.	1st Wednesday	Each Session
Colleshill	Village Hall.	3rd Weds.	No Medical Officer

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

There is no doubt that this service is one of the most vital to the well being of any modern community, but it is also one of the most unobtrusive and least heralded of the voluntary services in the country.

I have to thank the Regional Transfusion Centre, Oxford; also Mrs. Neale, Waldringfield, Martins End Lane, Great Missenden, Bucks., Commandant B.R.C.S., Great Missenden and District Branch No 30, and Mrs. W. Stevens, Divisional Director, B.R.C.S., Amersham Division, for the following information relating to the service locally.

Blood-donor sessions are held at six-monthly intervals, usually in January and July.

Place	Address	Organiser	Donor Panel
Amersham	Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue.	Mrs. Stevens, ) "Lych-Cot," ) Woodside Close, ) Amersham. ) Tel. Am. 981	200
Chesham	School Clinic, Germain Street.		200
Little Chalfont	Village Hall.	Mrs. Horsler, 2, Oldfield Close, Little Chalfont.	

There is an urgent need for more donors in all areas.

Volunteers for this important service are recommended to communicate direct with the organiser for their area as shown above.

Persons between 18 years and 65 years may volunteer (those under 21 years require their parents consent).

SECTION IIINATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

One person was removed to hospital under powers given under Section 47 of this Act.

The patient was an elderly lady suffering from gangrene of her left foot. She had refused treatment at hospital, was unable to give herself proper care and attention, nor was she receiving it from others.



SECTION IVPREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASENOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are given below, together with comparative figures for 1948 and 1957:-

	Cases Notified		
	1958	1957	1948
Measles	598	400	200
Whooping Cough	22	53	158
Scarlet Fever	41	11	34
Pneumonia	18	18	6
Poliomyelitis -			
(a) Paralytic	1	-	6
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	20	7	2
Erysipelas	3	-	4
Dysentery	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	7	-
Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	15	12	24
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	10

Acute Poliomyelitis

One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis was notified during the year. This low incidence was the general experience over the whole country. Although the increasing number of individuals vaccinated against poliomyelitis will have contributed to this low incidence, this disease will not be controlled until nearly 100% of the more susceptible age groups are protected by vaccination against it.

The latest figures indicate that approximately 65% of children under 16 years have been vaccinated and only a small percentage of those aged between 16 and 25 years.

Diphtheria

It is gratifying to note that 1958 was the 12th consecutive year during which the district has been free from Diphtheria. In 1958 57% of children aged 0-1 years and 77% of those aged 1-2 years had been immunised against this disease.

Whooping Cough

22 cases were notified during the year.

Of the children in the district approximately 65% had been immunised by the time they reached the age of 12 months.

In the country as a whole approximately 10% of notified cases of Whooping Cough relate to babies under 1 year and 80% of the deaths from this disease occur in this group. This underlines the necessity to commence immunisation against Whooping Cough by the 3rd month of life.

Dysentery

One case was notified during the year. It occurred in a child who had just returned from the Lebanon. Investigation showed that the disease had been contracted in the Lebanon.

Food Poisoning

One case was notified. It occurred in a lady admitted to hospital with diarrhoea and vomiting. Salmonella Typhi-Murium were isolated from the stools. Investigation did not reveal the source of infection.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	6	8	-	3	1	-	-	-

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. vaccination is provided for children aged 13 years by the School Health Department.

SUMMARY

(In the Amersham & Chesham Division)

Total No. eligible by age ...	...	...	...	...	...	566
Total No. Tuberculin Tested..	...	...	...	...	...	463
Percentage Positive Reactors.	...	...	...	...	...	13.6%
Percentage Non-Reactors .....	...	...	...	...	...	82.5%
Percentage absent from Reading	...	...	...	...	...	3.9%

A positive reaction indicates that the child has already been infected with tuberculosis and has thereby acquired a degree of protection from further infection with the disease. Non-reactors are vaccinated at the time the preliminary tests are read.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

We have in the Mass Miniature Radiography Survey a means of eradicating Tuberculosis. This desirable end can only be achieved if every adult member of the community participates.

The results of the 1956 Mass Miniature Radiography Survey held in this area are now to hand. Out of every 1,000 persons examined 6.0 were found to have significant chest lesions requiring treatment or observation and 0.6 had active tuberculosis. It is of interest that two thirds of the persons found to have active tuberculosis had no symptoms.

Of eligible persons 20% were x-rayed. However, when one discounts persons x-rayed in organised groups, only 14% of the General Public participated. As can be seen from the accompanying table the response rate became worse with increasing age:-

Age-group

14-19	1 person in 4 x-rayed.
20-24	1 " " 6 "
25-34	1 " " 4 "
35-44	1 " " $6\frac{1}{2}$ "
45-54	1 " " 7 "
55-64	1 " " 11 "
65	1 " " 26 "

The application of high pressure techniques as used in Glasgow and Liverpool to a rural area are worthy of consideration, as also is the problem of persuading the elderly of the importance of their being x-rayed, and the difficulties they find in attending.

SECTION V.Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.General Administration.

The Public Health Inspectors continued to maintain their day-to-day inspections. A considerable amount of time was necessarily spent at the two bacon factories. Each of the three additional Inspectors is on duty every third week, and the Deputy Chief Inspector is on duty at the smaller factory every other week, alternating with the additional Inspectors by rota. At the main factory slaughtering takes place from Monday to Friday, and at the smaller factory slaughtering is confined to Monday and Wednesday, of each week. It is the Council's policy to ensure 100% meat inspection.

The following is a summary of the Public Health Inspectors' visits during the year:-

General Sanitation.

<u>Nature of Inspection or Visit.</u>	<u>No.</u>	
Water Supply.....	26	
Drainage.....	502	
Stables & Piggeries.....	82	
Fried Fish Shops.....	1	
Tents, Vans and Sheds.....	242	
Outworkers.....	4	
Factories & Workshops.....	122	
Licensed Premises.....	66	
Refuse collection: Refuse disposal.....	73	
Rats and Mice.....	21	
Atmospheric pollution.....	55	
Schools.....	1	
Public conveniences.....	7	
Visits to filthy or verminous premises.....	13	
Pet Animals shops.....	9	
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.....	<u>203</u>	1,427

Housing.

Public Health Act. No. of houses inspected.....	132	
Public Health Act. No. of visits paid.....	217	
Housing Acts. No. of houses inspected.....	161	
Housing Acts. No. of visits paid.....	186	
Overcrowding: No. of houses inspected... ..	1	
Overcrowding: No. of visits paid.....	3	
Improvement Grants: Inspections.....	692	
Section 16: No. of houses inspected.....	73	
Section 16: No. of visits paid.....	72	
Housing Applications: No. of visits.....	252	
Certificates of Disrepair.....	70	
Miscellaneous.....	129	
Rural Housing.....	<u>13</u>	2,001

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease.....	45	
Visits re Disinfection.....	5	
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits.....	<u>10</u>	60



B/f 3,488

Meat Inspection.

Meat Inspection, visits to slaughterhouses.....	691	
Shops and Stalls.....	1	
Other premises.....	<u>51</u>	743

Visits to Food Premises.

Butchers.....	57	
Canteens.....	9	
Fishmongers & Poulterers.....	34	
Grocers.....	163	
Greengrocers and Fruiterers.....	30	
Dairies and Milk Distributors.....	94	
Food Preparing premises.....	54	
Ice Cream premises.....	14	
Market Stalls & Street Vendors' carts.....	2	
Restaurants.....	58	
Bakehouses.....	<u>33</u>	548

Visits in Connection With Sampling.

Milk Sampling.....	273	
Ice Cream Sampling.....	109	
Water Sampling.....	288	
Faeces sampling.....	6	
Utensil swabs.....	59	
Egg Albumen sampling.....	6	
Miscellaneous Food Visits.....	<u>28</u>	769

Total:- 5,548

## Informal Notices:

Served: 30  
Complied with: 22

## Statutory Notices:

Served: 5  
Complied with: Nil

With regard to the five Statutory Notices served, none of which were complied with, it should be explained that three of these Notices were served towards the end of the year, and in the case of the other two there were technical and legal difficulties which delayed compliance.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company is the statutory undertaking which supplies water to the whole of the Council's district, with the exception of the parish of Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards, and a portion of the parish of The Lee, which are served by the Bucks Water Board.

34 samples of the mains water were taken from various parts of the district and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. With one exception the reports of the Analyst were satisfactory. In the case of one adverse report the water contained approximately 9 parts per million of sandy matter, otherwise the water was chemically pure. The bacteriological count was high, and the Analysts suggested that this might well have been due to the presence of the sandy matter. The matter was reported to the Water Undertaking, who arranged for the main to be flushed and repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

Specimens of the analytical reports are given in the Appendix of this Report.



During the year, the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out further extensions to their mains, as follows:- 775 yds of 2 inch, 400 yds of 3", 2,484 yds. of 4 inch, 17 yds of 5 inch, 679 yds of 6 inch and 2,626 yds of 9 inch.

In connection with one of the above extensions the Council agreed to contribute the sum of £100.

Two extensions were carried out during the year by the Bucks Water Board, involving the laying of 297 yds. of 3" main.

248 samples of water other than from the mains were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:-

Source of Supply.

Rainwater.

4

Bore.

244

Of the 248 samples 20 were found to be unsatisfactory, as under:-

Rainwater.

4

Bore.

16

The two bacon factories derive a considerable quantity of their water from their own private boreholes, hence the explanation of the high number of samples taken from this source. In the case of the Amersham factory the borehole is 215 ft deep, and the water is chlorinated by a balanced pressure drip feed type of chlorinator. The average amount of free chlorine is 0.4 parts per million. At the Prestwood factory the borehole is 450 ft deep, and the water is again chlorinated by a drip feed type of chlorinator. A number of suspect samples of water were obtained from this source, and in order to check the effect of the chlorination a number of samples were taken before the water was chlorinated, which accounts for a large proportion of the sixteen unsatisfactory samples. At all times when adverse reports are received on samples of water taken from these boreholes instructions are given immediately to discontinue the use of the water until satisfactory reports are received on repeat samples.

At the Chalfont Epileptic Colony all the water is obtained through a sealed bore sunk to a depth of 250 ft, and the water is pumped to a covered storage tank, and is not chlorinated but is softened through a "Permutit" apparatus. Over many years that samples have been obtained from this source we have never had an adverse report. The Colony is connected to the water main so that there is no shortage of water in the event of a breakdown of the pump, or when the pump is being overhauled.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main centres of population at Amersham-on-the-Hill, Amersham Old Town, Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, and Great Missenden are sewered, and at the time of the preparation of this Report considerable progress had been made on the sewerage of Prestwood at a cost of £107,466. The whole of the sewage from these areas drains to the Misbourne Valley, and thence to the Colne Valley Sewage Board's works at Maple Cross, on the outskirts of Rickmansworth. Some progress has been made in the preparation of the scheme for Holmer Green, and this will, in addition, be connected to the trunk sewer in the Misbourne Valley. There are smaller schemes of sewerage also in course of preparation. A small area at Chesham Bois is drained to the Chesham U.D.C. disposal works.

During the very wet Autumn the daily flow of sewage as recorded at the Colne Valley Sewage Board's works, showed a considerable increase on the flow for the corresponding period of the previous year. Following investigations by the Surveyors' Department the Council was satisfied beyond doubt that the increase was in the main due to serious infiltration of subsoil water into the sewers, either directly, or indirectly through defective house drains. The problem was one requiring urgent attention as soon as circumstances permitted.

The method of drainage in the other parts of the area is by cesspool, or by means of a septic tank and soakaway into the chalk. The Council provides a free cesspool-emptying service, and no limit is placed on the reasonable number of times during the year that an individual cesspool may be emptied. Reference was made in the Report for 1957 to the many complaints of over-flowing cesspools, and the long delay in dealing with applications for emptying. I am unable to report any improvement in this connection.

It is hoped that with the completion of the sewerage scheme for Prestwood and for Holmer Green the position will improve. From past experience, however, it was found that reduction in the number of cesspools to be emptied as a result of properties being connected to the sewer is offset by the development taking place in the parts of the district not sewered.

The contents of the cesspool vehicles are disposed of partly into the Council's sewers, partly on to agricultural land remote from dwelling houses, and partly into disused clayspits at brickworks.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The house-to-house collection of refuse was reasonably well maintained, but there were a few complaints regarding the irregular frequency of the collections. The Council's object is to provide a weekly collection, and this is capable of achievement with the present authorised labour force, but delays occur owing to holidays and sickness, and no reserve of labour is available to meet these contingencies.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping, and two main sites were in use, one at Amersham, and one at a disused brickworks at Prestwood. Again, the lack of labour has presented difficulties in properly disposing of the refuse, and there were complaints of fly nuisance from residents in the near vicinity of the Amersham tip. Technical advice was sought from manufacturers of insecticides, and the liberal use of recommended preparations mitigated to some extent the nuisance conditions.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No steps were taken to declare any part of the Council's area as a smokeless zone, and at the present time no such steps are contemplated. Complaints were received of paper ash from the burning of surplus paper at a factory, and of nuisance from cellulose spraying operations in another factory.

Another matter which has caused the Council some concern was the potential danger to health from the emission of fumes from the Diesel-powered engines used for the generation of electricity at the Annual Amersham Fair. The matter was taken up with the various authorities, and with the Agents for the Shardeloes Estate who have the letting of the standings. The only action which seems possible is to prepare a short memorandum on the dangers and the precautions which can be taken, and for a copy to be sent to each of the Applicants for standings.

Two of the Officers of the Public Health Department attended a 3-day course arranged by the Coal Utilisation Council on the correct selection and installation of solid fuel-burning appliances.



Housing.

The number of properties shown below controlled by the Council at the end of December 1958, was 2,707, as compared with December, 1957, when it was 2,624. The range of properties is as follows:-

Housing Accommodation.

	December <u>1957</u>	December <u>1958</u>
Pre-war Council houses.....	666	666
Post-war Council houses.....	1,792	1,920
Prefabricated bungalows.....	90	90
War-time buildings converted.....	2	2
Hodgemoor Estate.....	72	29
Requisitioned & other properties.....	1	-
Pipers Wood Estate.....	2	-
Other properties.....	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,632</u>	<u>2,707</u>

Camp Sites.

During the year gradual clearance of Hodgemoor took place and in view of the reduced number of houses being available it became necessary to obtain the Ministry's sanction for extending the time for complete clearance until December 1960.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

A further 55 formal Certificates of Approval to applications for improvement grants were issued for the improvement of 65 dwellings, and the total amount of the grants given was £13,961. A summary of the applications approved since the inception of the provisions is given below:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Applications.</u>	<u>Total Grants.</u>
1950	1	£261
1951	1	269
1952	2	394
1953	9	2,465
1954	29	9,802
1955	72	18,225
1956	50	13,440
1957	45	11,473
1958	55	13,961

During 1958 there was for most of the year a restriction on capital expenditure, and in order to keep within the Council's Budget figure for improvement grants it was necessary to give an approved cost in most cases which was less than the actual cost of the work, in order to give a measure of satisfaction to all the Applicants.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

Housing Act 1957.

Slum Clearance Programme.

Further limited progress was made in the implementation of the Council's programme for dealing with the list of a total of 284 dwellings which was submitted to the Minister in August 1955, and a summary of the position at the 31st December, 1958, is given hereafter:-

Demolished.....	83
Subject to a Demolition Order and now vacant but not.... demolished.....	28
Subject to a Demolition Order, now vacant, but under.... reconstruction or reconstructed or to be reconstructed.. (six with Improvement Grants).....	19
Subject to a Demolition Order, but still occupied.....	32
Subject to a Closing Order and now vacant.....	6
Subject to a Closing Order and still occupied.....	4
Subject to an Undertaking either (a) to use for..... purposes other than human habitation or (b) to render... fit for human occupation.....	30
Improved and rendered fit by Informal Action..... (6 with Improvement Grants).....	15
Improved by formal action.....	4
Proposals pending for reconstruction, formalities..... postponed..... (3 with improvement grants).....	13
Now used for purposes other than human habitation volunt- arily.....	8
Acquired by Council, site to be redeveloped.....	6
In abeyance pending acquisition by Council.....	3
Still to be dealt with.....	<u>33</u>
	<u><u>284</u></u>

Progress was limited to a very great extent because of the reduction in the Council's building programme, and the consequent lack of houses for rehousing of the occupants of the sub-standard dwellings.

The day-to-day complaints of housing defects were in the main dealt with by informal action, and the following is a summary of the defects remedied by formal and informal action.

Cesspool accommodation repaired or provided.....	Nil
Drains repaired, altered or renewed.....	7
Repairs to roof (dampness abated).....	4
Repairs to wall and ceiling plaster.....	1
Repairs to roofs, walls and chimneys.....	6
Repairs to sanitary conveniences.....	2
Repairs to doors and windows.....	1

#### Rent Act, 1957.

13 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair, and in the case of 10 of the applications it was decided to issue a Certificate in respect of some but not all of the defects, and in the case of the other 3 applications it was decided to issue Certificates in respect of all the defects. Three undertakings were given and accepted by Landlords, and six Certificates were actually issued. Two applications were received for cancellation of Certificates, and one Certificate was cancelled. It is apparent from the above statistics

that tenants have not taken the fullest advantage of the provisions of the Act, although I believe in many cases the Landlords have not applied for the maximum rent to which they are entitled. I also believe it to be a fact that tenants are disinclined to take advantage of their rights under the Act because of the possibility of causing friction with their Landlord, which they themselves feel might be to their detriment. Another deterrent, so far as the tenant is concerned, is the trouble involved in completing the statutory forms.

It is the practice in this district, where acute defects are found as a result of the investigation of an application for a Certificate of Disrepair, to take the appropriate action under the Housing Acts.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council approved 24 applications for new licences to erect, station and use Moveable Dwellings, but a number of the existing licences were not renewed during the year, and the total number of licences current on the 31st December, 1958 was 103.

The Council was successful in obtaining a conviction against a person who occupied a caravan without being licenced under the Public Health Act.

#### RODENT INFESTATION AND DESTRUCTION.

There was a considerable increase in rat infestation during the winter months, which could be due to the large amount of corn left in the fields owing to bad weather during the harvest; also to the mild winter.

In accordance with the request of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food all persons under contract with the Agricultural Committee were contacted, and most of them accepted our invitation to enter into a contract with the Council. The number of contracts entered into during the year was 62 in respect of agricultural land, and 17 in respect of business premises. The contract in all cases is for one year, with the minimum of 4 treatments.

A summary of the work done is given below:-

No. of premises inspected for rats & mice.....	2863
" " treatments to private premises for rats and mice	338
" " " " business " " " " "	28
" " " " premises under contract for rats and mice.....	289
No. of premises inspected for Glis-Glis.....	10
" " Wasp Nests destroyed.....	47
" " Glis-Glis caught.....	22

#### Disinfection.

It is not the practice to carry out terminal disinfection in connection with infectious diseases, but 5 requests were received for the disinfection of premises.



SECTION VI.  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD.

MILK.

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20.

When any person is suffering from disease caused by the consumption of milk, or if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is so suffering or indeed if milk is infected with organisms capable of causing disease in man, the Medical Officer of Health of a District is authorised to serve a notice prohibiting the sale of such milk unless it has been treated in such a way as to render it fit for human consumption. A dairy farmer on whom such notice is served is entitled to compensation for damage or loss by reason of the notice served. The commonest cause for the infection of milk are the organisms of brucella (contagious abortion in cattle). During the year reports were received from the County Council that 1 sample of milk in this area was infected with these organisms. Another of the causes for the infection of milk are the organisms of Tuberculosis, and during the year, a report was received that 1 sample of milk in this area was so infected. In all cases the milk was diverted to render it safe prior to sale for human consumption and 1 cow suffering from tuberculosis was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Milk Sampling.

72 samples of T.T. milk, 151 of pasteurised milk, 44 of T.T./pasteurised milk, and 3 of sterilised milk were obtained and submitted for examination, and of these, 12 samples failed the methylene blue test. These were followed up, and in most cases it was found that there were defects in the bottle washing. After advice had been given further samples were taken which proved satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year 44 Licences were issued under the above Regulations, 17 to use the designation "Tuberculin-tested", 19 to use the designation "Pasteurised", and 8 to use the designation "sterilised".

Further, but few complaints, were received of dirty milk bottles, and of the presence in milk bottles of extraneous objects (i.e. a table tennis ball and a horse chestnut). In all cases the complaints were thoroughly investigated and warnings were issued to the dairymen concerned.

Ice Cream.

Of the 105 samples of ice-cream and ice cream powder submitted for bacteriological examination 92 were placed in the provisional grade 1 and 13 were placed in grade 2.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The Inspectors continued their routine inspections of all premises which are subject to the above Regulations and Informal Notices were served in cases where contravention of the regulations was found. Informal discussions with the proprietors of such premises

have been of value.

A lecture was given to one of the Women's Organisations on Food Hygiene.

547 visits have been made to all types of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

#### Utensil Swabs.

44 utensils were swabbed at 10 kitchens of canteens, cafes, hotels, etc, and in only one case was an adverse report received.

A request was received for facilities to be given to a Camera Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to take pictures illustrating Food Hygiene in a rural district, and six premises were visited for this purpose.

#### Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the two bacon factories, and one private slaughterhouse, and of the numbers infected with disease other than Tuberculosis, and with Tuberculosis. The total amount of meat condemned at these slaughterhouses was 29 tons 11 cwt. 2 qrs, and the total offal condemned was 9 tons, 3 cwt 1 qr 4 lbs.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	10	2	-	35	77,467
Number inspected	10	2	-	35	77,467
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2	197
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	4,601
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	10%	6.2%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1,954
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.54%

#### Other Foodstuffs Condemned.

Poultry..... 1,461½ lbs.

## Tinned Goods:

Meat.....	1,014	tins
Fish.....	619	"
Vegetables.....	3,675	"
Milk.....	463	"
Fruit.....	5,160	"
Soup.....	612	"
Jam.....	43	"

The meat and offal condemned at the two bacon factories is either suitably processed on the premises or removed by a contractor, and in both cases it is used for the manufacture of soap and for animal feeding. The condemned poultry and tinned foods are removed to the Council's refuse disposal site where it is immediately covered.

Food & Drugs Act, Section 16.

A further 8 premises were registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream, making a total in the register of 168 premises registered, 150 for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice cream, 14 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, and 4 for fish frying.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954.

No. of slaughterman's Licences renewed:	19
No. of New Licences issued.....	1

Poultry Packing.

The increasing development of this type of business has been causing concern in the Health Departments throughout the country, and in this district there is established a rapidly expanding industry of this character. Frequent routine visits have been made, and as indicated, a considerable amount of poultry was voluntarily surrendered as being unfit. A large proportion of these birds were found on arrival at the premises to be in a moribund condition.



S E C T I O N    VII.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of				M/c line No.
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities    ...    ...    ...	1	7	2	-	-		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority    ...    ...    ...	2	131	118	-	-		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-		3
TOTAL:		138	120	-	-		

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.Part VIII of the Act. Outworkers (Sections 110 & 111).

The number of outworkers notified in accordance with Section 110(i)(c) was 55. They were engaged in Brush-making (19), Wearing Apparel (9), and Curtains and Furniture Hangings (27).

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Number of Licences issued: 2

Game Act, 1831.

Number of Game Licences issued: 13

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 & 1936.

Number of Licences renewed: 114

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Number of Premises registered: 4

Bucks County Council Act, 1957.

As from the 1st April the Provisions of Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957, were in operation; these provisions require the registration of all persons carrying out the business of a hairdresser or barber's shop. As from the same date Byelaws have been in operation for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under the Section, and of the instruments, towels, materials, and equipment used therein, and the cleanliness of persons employed in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

EPILOGUE.

In view of the varied nature of the duties of the Public Health Inspector, and the many miscellaneous calls which are made to the Public Health Department most Inspectors must from time to time encounter the occasional odd incident which can be amusing, pathetic, or full of unusual characteristics, and of interest to their colleagues.

During last year we were asked to investigate a peculiar fishy smell in an architect's office. On investigation this fishy smell was very pungent, and it so happened that there was a fishmonger's shop almost adjacent. On the face of it the solution appeared to be a simple one, but at the fishmonger's premises there was nothing which was likely to cause the offensive smell. Back we went to the office premises concerned, and after spending the best part of half an hour investigating all possible sources of the smell we finally discovered that the fuse-box on the staircase was extremely hot, and on opening it we were left in no doubt as to the precise source of the offensive odour!! The occupier of the premises was advised to immediately contact the Electricity Board, and another job was successfully performed!

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

F.G. Caudery, M.R.S.H., F.I.P.H.A.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX 1.

Borough of Southwark,  
Public Analyst's Department,  
Health Services Department,  
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.66

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by  
Bucks Water Board.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	7.4	
				Parts	per million
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	Nil	
Total Solids	...	...	...	320	
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	12.0	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil	
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil	
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.0	
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil	
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	...	...	...	Nil	
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	148	
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	94	
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	242	
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	Copper - 0.9	
				Lead & Zinc - not found.	

Bacteriological Examination.

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	0 per ml
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	0 per ml
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.

The water contained a trace of copper, but otherwise is of the usual high purity and in my opinion is safe for use for drinking.

(Signed) D.H. Button,

Public Analyst.

APPENDIX 11.

Borough of Southwark,  
Public Analyst's Department,  
Health Services Department,  
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.67

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of Water from rising service main. Water supplied by  
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. Ltd. (Great Berkhamsted  
area).

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)...	...	...	...	...	7.1 Parts per million
Free Chlorine...	...	...	...	...	0.1
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	300
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	14.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	3.7
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs @ 98°F.)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness, Temporary...	...	...	...	...	223
Hardness, Permanent...	...	...	...	...	29
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	252
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc)	...	...	...	...	Not found

Bacteriological Examination.

Colonies on agar in 48 hours @ 37°C.	0 per ml
Colonies on agar in 72 hours @ 20°C.	0 per ml
Coliform bacilli	... Not found in 100 ml

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of  
high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking  
and domestic purposes.

(Signed) D.H. Button,

Public Analyst.



